

List of Slavic deities

The pagan Slavs were polytheistic, which means that they worshipped many gods and goddesses. The gods of the Slavs are known primarily from a small number of chronicles and letopises, or not very accurate Christian sermons against paganism. Additional, more numerous sources in which Slavic theonyms are preserved include names, proper names, place names, folk holidays, and language, including sayings.

Information about Slavic paganism, including the gods, is scarce because Christian missionaries were not very interested in the spiritual life of the Slavs.^[1] Also, no accounts written down directly by the pagan Slavs exist. During the Christianization missions, the deities, on the one hand, were demonized in order to deter from worshipping them, on the other hand, their characteristics and functions were assumed by the saints, which was supposed to make the new religion less alien.

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Common Slavic deities

Because of the small number of sources, there is no consensus among scholars of Slavic mythology on the extent of the worship of even the most important deities. Listed in this paragraph are those whose Panslavic range is most often recognized. In addition to these, the East Slavic Mokosh (a presumed toponym in Czechia), and the East Slavic Stribog (toponyms in Poland) are sometimes indicated.




Supreme deities

Based on the reconstructed myths around the figures of Perun and Veles, some scholars believe that both of these gods are chief deities.^{[2][3]} They are primarily found in the Slavic creation myth. According to some scholars, a pair of these gods prove "Slavic dualism", but there is no consensus on this either, and those






who assume that such dualism in mythology may have existed, point out that Slavic dualism was probably not as extreme as in Christianity or Zoroastrianism.

Name	Image	Other names	Details
<u>Perun</u>		Grom	Perun is the god of lightning and thunder, ^[4] as well as of war, ^[5] and the patron of the družina. ^[6] He is the etymological and functional continuator of the Proto-Indo-European thunder god <i>*Perkʷunos</i> , and shares many characteristics with other thunder gods worshipped by Indo-Europeans. ^[7] He is mentioned most notably in <i>Primary Chronicle</i> , where a grey-haired and golden-moustached statue of Perun is described in temple on Old Kyiv Hill, and <i>Third Novgorod Chronicle</i> , where his statue is described in Peryn, ^[8] and in many texts warning against paganism. His name survived in spells and in proper names. ^[9] Armed usually with an axe, hammer, or spear, ^[10] he fights chaos demons. His figure is preserved in folklore primarily in the form of <u>saint Elijah</u> and <u>saint George</u> . ^[9]
<u>Veles</u>		Volos	Veles is a god with many functions, which makes it difficult to compare him to any other deity. He is attributed with being a chthonic god: he rules over the underworld, where the souls of the dead find their way, where he leads them out into the meadows. He is also attributed with the care of cattle, which symbolize wealth, he also patronizes artists, especially poets, and is the god of magic. ^[11] His name is most likely etymologically related to death. Mentioned primarily in <i>Primary Chronicle</i> ; his name also often appears in proper names. His animal incarnations are <u>bull</u> or <u>ox</u> , <u>dragon</u> or <u>zmey</u> . ^[12] His figure is preserved in folklore primarily in the form of <u>saint Nicholas</u> and the <u>devil</u> . ^[13]




Other deities



Name	Image	Other names	Details
<u>Dazhbog</u>		Daćbog Dajbog Dabog	Dazhbog is a sun god. His name, meaning "god of giving", may suggest that he was also a god of abundance. ^[14] He appears in the <i>Primary Chronicle</i> , where he is described as the son of <u>Svarog</u> , in <i>The Tale of Igor's Campaign</i> , ^[15] as well as in folk songs and proper names. By some researchers he is identified with <u>Svarozhits</u> , ^[16] or is considered to be his brother. ^[17]
<u>Yarovit-Yarilo</u>		Gerovit Herovit Yaryla Yaruna	Yarovit is a Polabian god mentioned in the <i>Life of St. Otto</i> , which describes a festival dedicated to him during which the city was decorated. From the description and etymology it seems that he is an agricultural and war god and his temple had a golden, decorated shield. Yarilo is the name for a spring festival, and a character in it, found among the <u>East and South Slavs</u> . Many scholars consider Yarilo to be a desacralized deity, and equate him to Yarovit, pointing to common traits and etymology. ^{[18][19]}
<u>Svarozhits</u>		Svarozhich	Svarozhits is a fire god mentioned in minor <u>East Slavic texts</u> . ^[20] He is also mentioned by <u>Bruno</u> in a letter to <u>King Henry II</u> and later in <i>Thietmar's Chronicle</i> as the chief deity of <u>Rethra</u> , the main political center of the <u>Veleti</u> . ^[21] His name is generally translated as "son of <u>Svarog</u> ", less commonly as "little, young Svarog". Generally identified with <u>Radegast</u> , less commonly with <u>Dazhbog</u> .




Personifications

Name	Image	Other names	Details
<u>Dola</u>		Sreća	Dola is the personification of fate and destiny. ^[22] Dola was assigned to a person at birth and stays with him for the rest of his life. It may be inherited from ancestors. It is generally invisible, but may have manifested in human or animal form. ^[23] The opposite of Dola, understood as good fortune, was Nedola, the personification of bad fortune. Etymologically related to the Slavic words <i>divide</i> , <i>part</i> . ^[22]
<u>Mat Zemlya</u>		Mother Moist Earth Święta Ziemia	Mat Zemlya is a personification of the Earth appearing mainly in <u>East Slavic</u> texts but remaining in most <u>Slavic languages</u> . ^[24] Perhaps epithet of <u>Mokosh</u> .
<u>Rod</u>		Sud	Rod is a figure, spirit, or deity often mentioned in minor <u>East and South Slavic</u> texts, generally along with <u>Rozhanitsy</u> . Etymologically related to the Slavic words for "family", "kin", "giving birth", etc. Bloodless sacrifices were offered to him. ^[25] There is no consensus in scholarship about Rod's status in mythology.
<u>Rozhanitsy</u>		Sudenitsy Narechnitsy	Rozhanitsy ("Givers of life"), Sudenitsy ("Givers of fate"), and Narechnitsy ("Givers of destiny") are female spirits or deities of fate. They appear in the plural or as a single entity. In <u>East and South Slavic</u> sources they are often mentioned together with <u>Rod</u> . ^[25] Their main function is to determine the child's fate for life, ^[26] then they leave an invisible mark on his forehead. Man's fate was symbolized by the <i>thread of life</i> , on the length of which, measured by the Rozhanitsy, depended the length of man's life. Bloodless sacrifices were offered to them. ^[25]
<u>Zorya</u>		Zara Zaria Zoria Zoriuška Zora	Zorya is the personification of the dawn. She is the Slavic continuation of the Proto-Indo-European goddess of dawn <i>*H₂éwsōs</i> ^[27] and has many of her characteristics: she lives overseas on the island of <u>Bujan</u> , ^[28] opens the door for the Sun to go on its daily journey across the sky, ^[28] also has a golden boat. Zora can be a single figure, two figures, or three. She appears in Christianized prayers and orders.
<u>Zvezda</u>		Utrenica Danica Jitřenka Večernice	Zvezda, Utrenica, or Danica is the personification of the Morning Star or planet <u>Venus</u> as seen in the sky before sunrise.

West Slavic deities

Name	Image	Other names	Worshipped by	Details
<u>Svetovit</u>		Svatovid (incorrect) Svantevit (incorrect)	<u>Rani</u>	Svetovit is the chief god of the Slavic Rani. His cult is described by <u>Helmold of Bosau</u> and <u>Saxo Grammaticus</u> . ^[29] Theonym comes from the word <i>svět</i> "holy, sacred" with the suffix <i>vit</i> "lord". ^[30] His main temple was located on Arkona. Inside the temple was his statue, described by Saxo as a four-headed statue holding an ornate horn in his right hand; there was also a large sword and other artifacts. ^[31] The horn and white horse, dedicated to him, was used for divination. ^[30] The theocratic rule of his priests limited the rule of <i>knyaz</i> . ^[32]
<u>Triglav</u>			<u>Polabians</u> <u>Pomeranians</u>	Triglav is a god mentioned in the <i>Life of St. Otto</i> and in the chronicle describing the capture of Slavic <u>Brenna</u> . He had a golden statue whose eyes and mouth were covered. A black horse, which was used by preachers to foretell the future, and a holy oak were dedicated to him. The three heads may symbolize the tripartite division between heaven, earth, and the underworld. ^[33]
<u>Radegast</u>			<u>Polabians</u> <u>Redarians</u> <u>Moravians</u>	Radegast is a god mentioned by <u>Adam of Bremen</u> , and the information is repeated by <u>Helmold</u> . He was to occupy the first place among the gods worshipped at <u>Rethra</u> . Earlier sources state that the main god of Rethra was <u>Svarozhits</u> , thus Radegast is considered to be a epithet of Svarozhits or a local variant of his cult. A white horse was dedicated to him, and he himself was depicted wearing armor and a helmet. It is generally believed that his name is composed of the words <i>rad</i> "glad" and <i>gost</i> "guest". ^[34] A modern statue of him is standing on the mountain <u>Radhošť</u> , which is also named after him.

<u>Zhiva</u>			<u>Polabians</u>	Zhiva is a goddess mentioned by <u>Helmold</u> . According to him, next to <u>Radagast</u> and <u>Prone</u> , she is the most important deity of the Slavs. Probably identical with the Polish deity <u>Żywie</u> mentioned by <u>Jan Długosz</u> . ^[35] A theonym related to the word <i>žiti</i> "to live".
<u>Prone</u> or <u>Prove</u>			<u>Polabians</u>	<i>Proue</i> is a distorted name of a god mentioned by <u>Helmold</u> . This theonym is interpreted in several different ways: some scholars translate the name as <i>Prove</i> (from Slavic word <i>pravo</i> "law"), while others translate the name as <i>Prone</i> , a local variant of <u>Perun's</u> name. <u>Helmold</u> makes it clear that <i>Proue</i> , ^[36] unlike other deities, did not have a statue, but an oak grove near <u>Starogard</u> , where courts were held every monday, was dedicated to him. ^[37]
<u>Rugiaevit</u>		Rugievit Ruyevit	<u>Rani</u>	<u>Rugievit</u> is a god mentioned by <u>Saxo Grammaticus</u> and in the <i><u>Knýtlinga saga</u></i> . He was worshipped in <u>Gardec</u> on <u>Rügen</u> , where his temple was located, as well as <u>Porevit</u> and <u>Porenut</u> . His statue was made of oak wood, had a head with seven faces, seven swords at his belt and an eighth in his hand. According to <u>Saxo</u> , he was a war deity, also associated with the sexual sphere. ^[38] The interpretation of his name remains a matter of debate.
<u>Porevit</u>		Puruvit	<u>Rani</u>	<u>Porevit</u> is a god mentioned by <u>Saxo Grammaticus</u> and in the <i><u>Knýtlinga saga</u></i> . He was worshipped in <u>Gardec</u> on <u>Rügen</u> , where his temple was located, as well as <u>Rugiaevit</u> and <u>Porenut</u> . Statue of him had five heads, and importantly did not have any weapons. The meaning of the name is unclear, perhaps meaning "Lord of strength". ^[39]
<u>Porenut</u>			<u>Rani</u>	<u>Porenut</u> is a god mentioned by <u>Saxo Grammaticus</u> and in the <i><u>Knýtlinga saga</u></i> . He

				was worshipped in <u>Gardec</u> on <u>Rügen</u> , where his temple was located, as well as <u>Rugiaevit</u> and <u>Porevit</u> . His idol had four faces and a fifth on his chest, which he held up with his hands. The etymology is debated. ^[39]
<u>Chernobog</u>			<u>Polabians</u>	The only reliable source mentioning Chernobog is the <i><u>Chronica Slavorum</u></i> . <u>Helmold</u> describes him as a deity of unpropitious fortune and juxtaposes him with an unnamed deity of propitious fortune, reconstructed by later writers as <i><u>Belobog</u></i> . ^{[40][41]}
<u>Chernoglav</u>			<u>Rani</u>	<u>Chernoglav</u> is a god mentioned in the <i><u>Knýtlinga saga</u></i> . He is described there as a god of victory with a silver mustache. ^[42]
<u>Podaga</u>		<u>Pogaga</u>	<u>Wagri</u>	<u>Podaga</u> is a god who, according to <u>Helmold</u> , had his image in <u>Plön</u> . Meaning of the theonym is explained as "power, might". It was suggested that the name <i><u>Podaga</u></i> is identical with <u>Długosz's</u> <i><u>Pogoda</u></i> . ^[35]
<u>Niya</u>		<u>Tiya</u>	<u>Poles</u>	<u>Niya</u> is a deity first mentioned by <u>Lucas of Wielki Koźmin</u> . By <u>Jan Długosz</u> he was interpreted as the Polish god of the underworld. His temple was located on <u>Lech Hill</u> . His name is connected with the Polish word <i>nyć</i> meaning "to fade away, to disappear". ^[43]
<u>Devana</u>		<u>Zevana</u> <u>Dźiwica</u>	<u>Poles</u> <u>Lusatians</u>	<u>Devana</u> is the goddess of wildlife, forests, the moon and hunting. Mentioned by <u>Jan Długosz</u> as a Polish equivalent of <u>Diana</u> . <u>Devana</u> , as <u>Dźiwica</u> , was also present in Lusatian folklore. She appears in <u>Silesian</u> customs together with <u>Morana</u> , which may indicate a double nature of these goddesses. Etymology of the name of the goddess is a subject of discussion. In Christian folklore, she may have been replaced by Our Lady of Thunder Candle.
<u>Morana</u>		<u>Death</u> <u>Marzanna</u>	<u>Poles</u> <u>Czechs</u>	<u>Morana</u> is the goddess of vegetation, but also of death








Morena

Slovaks
Moravians

and winter. She was mentioned by Jan Długosz as a Polish equivalent of Ceres. Burning or drowning Morana's image in the river is supposed to chase away winter and bring back spring, and this tradition is still alive in modern Poland, Slovakia, Moravia and parts of Bohemia. She appears in Silesian customs together with Devana, which may indicate the dual nature of these goddesses.

East and South Slavic deities

Name	Image	Other names	Worshipped by	Details
<u>Stribog</u>			<u>East Slavs</u>	Stribog is the god of the wind. Mentioned in the <i>Primary Chronicle</i> and <i>The Tale of Igor's Campaign</i> . He may also have been worshipped in Poland. His name is interpreted as the "spreading god". ^[44]
<u>Khors</u>			<u>East Slavs</u>	Khors is a deity with unclear functions mentioned in the <i>Primary Chronicle</i> and <i>The Tale of Igor's Campaign</i> , as well as other minor sources. ^[45] For many years he was interpreted as a sun god, supported by the theory that the name is a loan from one of the Iranian languages and means "Sun". ^[45] In recent years, this etymology has come under strong criticism, and a native etymological link to fertility is suggested instead. ^[46] His idol was allegedly located in Pskov.
<u>Mokosh</u>		Mokoša	<u>East Slavs</u> <u>Czechs</u>	Mokosh is a goddess mentioned in the <i>Primary Chronicle</i> and other minor texts. She is generally interpreted as Mother Goddess. She appears in folklore as a creature with a large head and hands who shears sheep and spins flax, also associated in some way with masturbation. Etymologically related to the word <i>mokъ</i> "wet". ^[47] In Christianity she is continued by St. Paraskeva and St. Anastasia. ^[48]
<u>Simargl</u>		Siemargl Sim and Rgl	<u>East Slavs</u>	Simargl is a deity mentioned in the <i>Primary Chronicle</i> , and mentioned in the <i>Sermon by One Who Loves Christ</i> in two entities: Sim and Rgl. Although the sources do not indicate any functions of this god it is believed that he is associated with the care of plants, as indicated by the god's name, which was borrowed by the Slavs from the Iranian Simurgh, a winged, dog-headed guardian of plants. ^[49]

<u>Svarog</u>		<u>South Slavs or East Slavs</u>	Svarog is a god mentioned in the <i>Primary Chronicle</i> in a passage that is a Slavic translation of the <i>Chronicle</i> of John Malalas. This source depicts Svarog as the counterpart of the Greek Hephaestus, and the father of Dazhbog. The function and etymology of the god are unclear: according to some scholars he is related to the Slavic word <i>svar</i> meaning "quarrel", while according to others he is related to the Indian <i>svar</i> meaning "radiance", "sky", "sun". Based on etymology, interpreted as the smith god, or as the god of the sky. ^{[50][51]}
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Deities listed anonymously

There are two sources that mention a nameless Slavic *chief god*. Procopius of Caesarea in the *Gothic Wars* describes the religion of the South Slavs:

Indeed, they believe that a single god, creator of the lightning bolt, is the sole lord of all things and they offer him sacrifices of cows and all manner of victims. The idea of destiny is unknown to them nor do they believe that it has any influence over men, but when death is at their heels because they have fallen sick or are preparing for war, they promise that, if spared, they will immediately offer a sacrifice in honour of the god in exchange for their life and, once they have been spared, they sacrifice whatever they have to hand and believe they have bought their salvation with this sacrifice.^[52]

Greek original text

θεὸν μὲν γὰρ ἓνα τὸν τῆς ἀστραπῆς δημιουργὸν ἀπάντων κύριον μόνον αὐτὸν νομίζουσιν εἶναι, καὶ θύουσιν αὐτῷ βόας τε καὶ ἱερεῖα πάντα· εἰμαρμένην δὲ οὔτε ἴσασι οὔτε ἄλλως ὁμολογοῦσιν ἓν γε ἀνθρώποις ῥοπήν τινα ἔχειν, ἀλλ' ἐπειδὴ αὐτοῖς ἐν ποσὶν ἤδη ὁ θάνατος εἴη, ἢ νόσῳ ἀλοῦσιν ἢ ἐς πόλεμον καθισταμένοις, ἐπαγγέλλονται μὲν, ἢν διαφύγωσι, θυσίαν τῷ θεῷ ἀντὶ τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτίκα ποιήσιν, διαφυγόντες δὲ θύουσιν ὅπερ ὑπέσχοντο, καὶ οἷονται τὴν σωτηρίαν ταύτης δὴ τῆς θυσίας αὐτοῖς ἐωνῆσθαι.^[52]

Similar information, however, concerning the West Slavic Polabians, appears in Helmold's Chronicle:

Within the multifarious aspect of the manifestations of their divinities, to which their fields, forests, sadness, and happiness are entrusted, they do not deny that there is one god in heaven who reigns above the others, that this is the only one responsible for celestial matters, and that the others obey him; each assuming a role, they come from his line and are more powerful the closer they are to said god.^[53]

Latin original text

Inter multiformia uero deorum numina, quibus arua, siluas, tristitias atque uoluptates attribuunt, non diffitentur unum deum in celis ceteris imperitantem, illum prepotentem celestia

tantum curare, hos uero distributis officiis obsequentes de sanguine eius processisse et unumquemque eo prestantiorem, quo proximior illi deo deorum.^[53]

It is unclear how reliably these accounts describe Slavic theology. Some scholars believe that these texts are Christian interpretations of the faith of the pagan Slavs; Helmold, writing about the *god of gods*, clearly borrowed the term (*deus deorum*) from the Book of Psalms (50:1). In the case of Procopius' text, for example, Aleksander Brückner argued that the text was a calque, an image with a Hellenized tinge imposed on Slavic paganism. Scholars who accept at least partial authenticity of these messages believe that they may convey information about henotheism, the Slavic *deus otiosus* - a passive god who does not interfere directly in world affairs and whose commands are carried out by other gods. It is also possible that they may refer to the replacement of the passive sky god by a more active thunder god, just as the Greek Uranus was replaced by Zeus. Although Procopius and Helmold do not mention the names of these gods, whose names they probably did not know because of taboos, it is generally believed that Perun, or Svarog, was involved here.^{[54][55]}

Cosmas of Prague describes Czech paganism in his *Chronica Boemorum* through the *interpretatio romana*: "Therefore, sacrifice to your gods an ass so that they become your succour. Those who wish you to make this offering are Jupiter, most important of the gods, Mars himself, his sister Bellona and the son-in law of Ceres (i.e. Pluto).^[56]

In the *Chronicle*, Thietmar describes the Christianization of Pomerania. In 1000, during the congress of Gniezno, Reinbern was appointed bishop of Kołobrzeg. Thietmar further wrote that Reinbern "destroyed the temples of the idols, he burnt them, and, after anointing four stone idols of their demons with holy chrism, he threw them into the lake and then blessed the water to cleanse it".^[57] Perhaps the passage in this message is about the sea god.^[58]

Deities of uncertain status

- **Belebog** – god of propitious fortune reconstructed in opposition to Chernobog.^[59]
- **Diva** – theonym mentioned by *Sermon by Saint Gregory*.^{[60][61]}
- **Diŷ** – theonym mentioned in *Sermon and Revelation by the Holy Apostles*. Possibly related to sky or rain.^[62]
- **Hennil** or **Bendil** – an agricultural deity mentioned by Thietmar.^[63]
- **Karna and Zhelya** – assumed personifications of weeping for the dead among the East Slavs, appear in *The Tale of Igor's Campaign*.^[64]
- **Korab**, a deity found in old Croatian mythology, associated with the sea, navigation and fishing, that was reportedly the eponym of the island of Rab, the mountain of Korab and a kind of a boat.^[65]
- **Kresnik** – character in Slovenian folklore. Together with his brother, Trot, he flew in a golden chariot. He fought the Zhmij or Dragon in sky or on earth, who stole his cattle or abducted his wife. Identified with Perun.^[66]
- **Kruh** – a Polabian god. Perhaps related to Khors.^[46]
- **Lel and Polel** – alleged Polish divine twins first mentioned by Maciej Miechowita as counterparts of Castor and Pollux.^[67]
- ***Ljutobog** – hypothetical name of a Polabian deity.^[40] Reinhold Trautmann, on the basis of the Polabian village of Lutebuk, probably located on the island of Usedom, first attested in 1238, and which burned down in the 17th century, proposed the existence of a "harsh god" (*luty* "harsh") as opposed to the "white god".^[68]

- **Ognyena Maria** – figure in East and South Slavic folklore. Sister of St. Elijah (Perun), associated with lightning and an arrow, her feast day was July 17.^[69]
- **Pereplut** – theonym mentioned in *Sermon by the Holy Father Saint John Chrysostom*.^[70]
- **Perperuna, Dodola** – pagan folk festival celebrated in the Balkans that was used to bring rain. Some scholars suggest that the name of the festival originally may have been the name of a goddess, the wife of Perun.^[71]
- **Pizamar** – deity mentioned in the *Knýtlinga saga*. The exact reading of the name is unclear, which has led some scholars to suggest that the author understood the ordinary name as a theonym.^[72]
- **Pogoda** – alleged Polish weather goddess mentioned by Jan Długosz.^[73]
- **Trot** – character in Slovenian folklore. Together with his brother, Kresnik, he flew in a golden chariot. In one story, he decapitated Zhmij with a golden axe.^[74]
- **Zeľe** – deity mentioned as worshipped by pagan Czechs mentioned by abbot Jan Neplach.^[75]
- **Żywie** – goddess mentioned by Jan Długosz.^[35]

Pseudo-deities

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